

# How to read Hieroglyphes



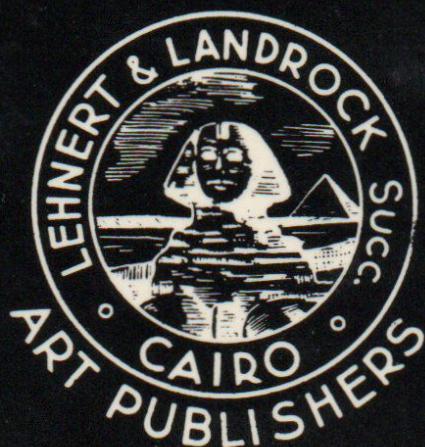
*Pai-â*

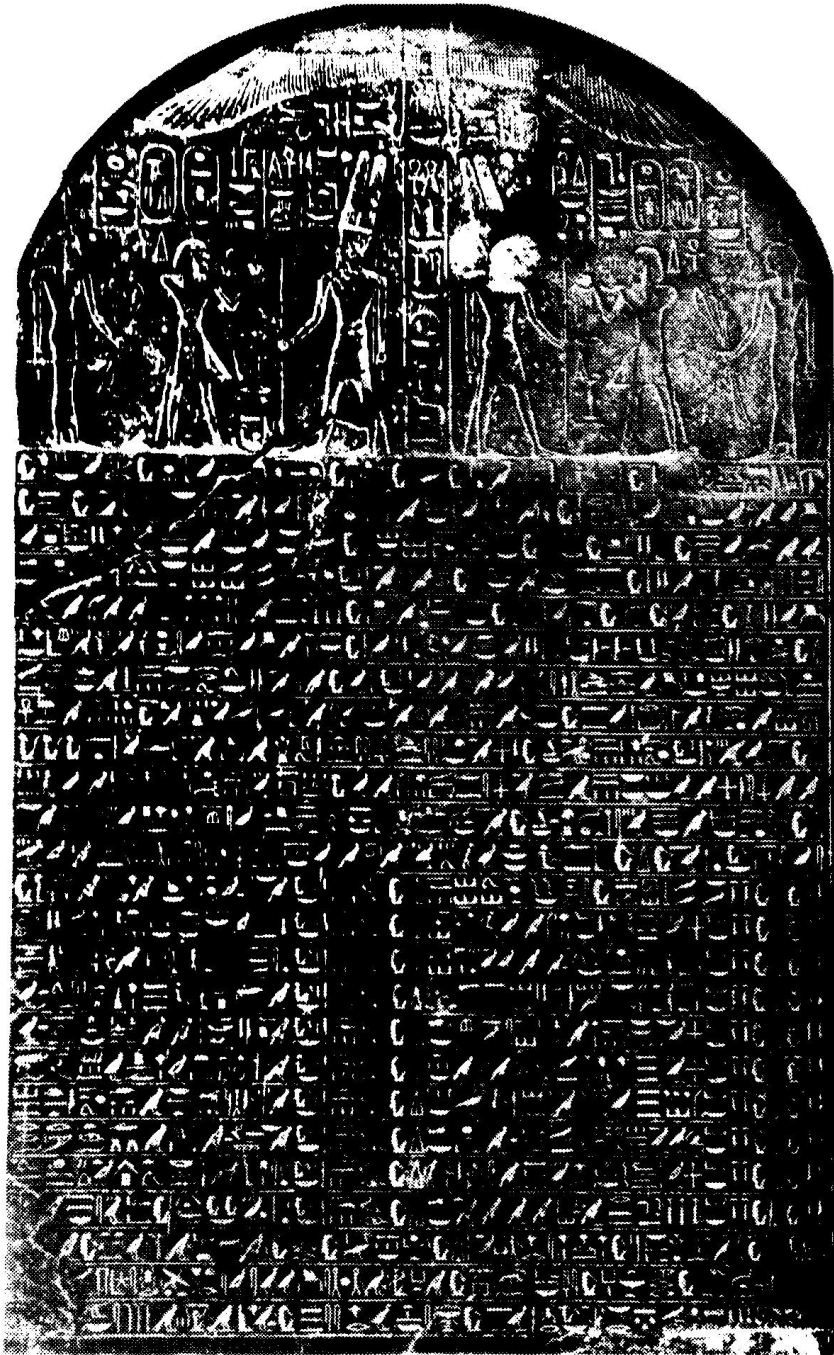


*Neb*



*Nefer*





# How to read Hieroglyphes

LEHNERT & LANDROCK SUCC. PUBLISH.  
CAIRO



# The Hieroglyphes

## Introduction

The main purpose of this little book is to help the tourist to understand as much as possible about hieroglyphes, this mysterious script that remained in use several thousand years and from which we learnt a great deal of what happened so long ago. As a complete study of hieroglyphes is the work of a life time, we must content ourselves with learning just enough to enable us to decipher the names of some of the more important pharaohs of Ancient Egypt.

Cairo, 27<sup>th</sup> of march 1974

K. Lambelet

Copyright Lehnert & Landrock Succ., Cairo, Egypt, 1974

There is little doubt that this form of writing has its origin in a picture script such as we can still see on the Narmer Palette.

The most ancient hieroglyphic inscriptions date back from the time of the unification of Upper with Lower Egypt, about 3000 B.C., and the last known inscription is dated 394 A.D.

The time of transition from the picture script to hieroglyphic writing with its enormous number of different signs must have been effected in a relatively very short time of not more than three generations since we find already perfectly precise inscriptions in the 3<sup>rd</sup> dynasty of King Zoser about 2700 B.C.

Apart from the decorative hieroglyphes on buildings of all kinds and on art objects, a cursive form of hieroglyphes was used and generally employed for writing on papyrus. The difference between this latter form called "hieratic" and the hieroglyphic writing may be compared to that of our type writing and hand writing.

The "Hieratic" writing was used until about 700 B.C. and from then on a simplified modified form was used for popular writing of contracts and protocols; this form of writing is called "Demotic".

The final form of Egyptian writing, originating from the "Demotic" and before the introduction of Arabic in Egypt, is the "Coptic script" using the Greek alphabet by adding a few more letters and specially vowels. The foundation of reading of hieroglyphes is the knowledge of Coptic. This coptic writing is still used to-day for Coptic Liturgy.



## HIEROGLYPHES



Pa neter



ynek

## COPTIC

ΠΝΟΥΤΕ

Pnoute

(  
God  
Gott  
Dieu

ΑΝΟΚ

anok

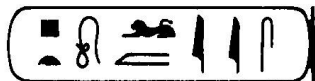
(  
Ich  
Je

The art of reading hieroglyphes had been completely lost for long centuries. It was Champollion (1790–1832 A. D.) who for the first time was able properly to decipher hieroglyphic writing. French soldiers found the famous “Rosetta Stone” a decree of Ptolomaïos V in Greek, Demotic and Hieroglyphic writing. Comparing these different texts and specially the names of “Ptolmees” and “Cleopatra” written in the royal cartouches, he could recognize with certainty a few letters of the hieroglyphic alphabet.

The old Egyptians were the first to discover an alphabet of 24 letters; if only this alphabet would have been used, hieroglyphic reading would be very easy. But the priests who used and taught the art of hieroglyphs, invented, beside the above 24 letters (Phonetic signs) more than 700 further signs called “Syllabic”.

These syllabic signs could have been written without difficulty with the letters of the hieroglyphic alphabet. In addition to these Phonetic and Syllabic signs, a great number of determinative signs were also used for the following reason. In the hieroglyphic system no short vowels existed similar to those in the Arabic alphabet. For example, if we were to translate into English the two signs D and R, these could read either door or deer. To differentiate then therefore the representation of a door or a deer was added after the word. The hieroglyphic writing was a highly developed system by which everything even grammatical forms could be expressed. No wonder that only the priests and a few scribes mastered perfectly the writing with these numerous signs. The hieroglyphes can be read from right to left, from left to right and also vertically, according to the picture composition, the heads being always turned towards the beginning of the sentence.

Ptolemy



P T O L M I S

Cleopatra



K L I O P A D R A

The word “Hieroglyph” has its origin in the Greek and means translated holy script (Hieros=holy, Gluphein=impress).



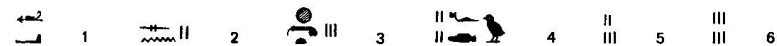
## Alphabetic Signs



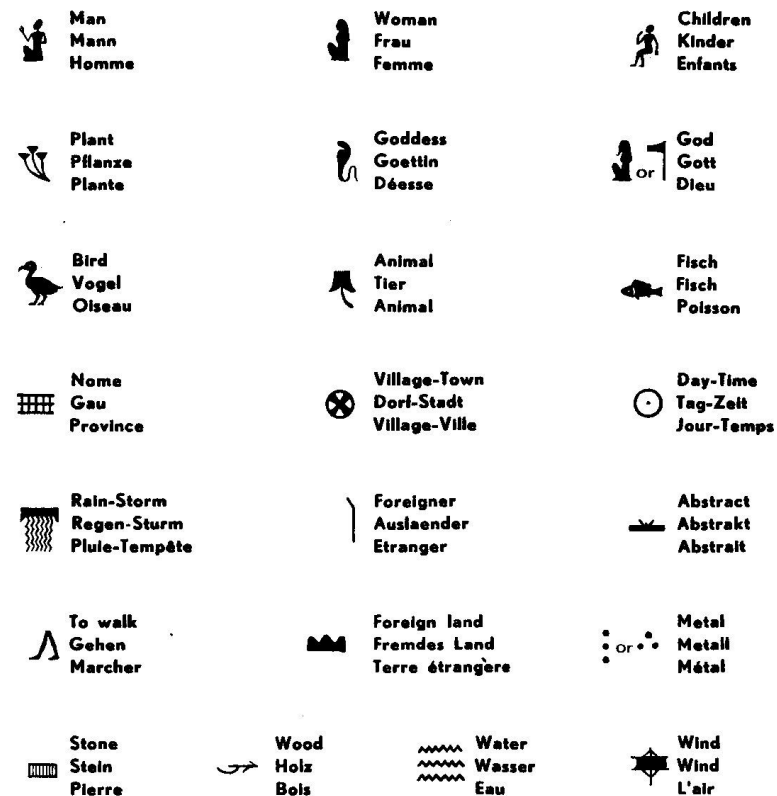
## Some Syllabic Signs



## The numbers are as follow



## A selection of determinative signs





## Groups of signs frequently met



=(*Nisut bàti*),

King of Upper and Lower Egypt  
König von Ober-und Unter Aegypten  
Roi de la Haute et Basse Egypte



=(*Neb tau*),

Lord of the two Lands  
Herr beider Laender  
Maitre de deux pays



=(*Sa Râ*),

Son of the god Râ  
Sohn des Gottes Râ  
Fils du dieu Râ



=(*Âmen - Râ*),

The god Amen Râ  
Gott Amen -Râ  
Le dieu Amen- Râ



=(*meri*),

Beloved of  
Geliebt von  
Aimé de



=(*ânkḥ djet*),

Who lives eternally  
Der ewig lebt  
Qui vit éternellement



=(*ânkḥ djed uas*),

Life stability and enjoyment  
Leben, Beständigkeit und Genuss  
La vie, stabilité et joie



=(*maâ kheru*),

The justified  
Der Gerechtfertigte  
Le justifié



=(*ânkḥ udja seneb*),

Who lives, strong and healthy  
Der lebt, stark und gesund  
Qui vit, fort et sain



=(*ḥem - f*),

His majesty  
Seine Majestaet  
Sa majesté



=(*seš*),

The scribe  
Der Schreiber  
Le scribe



=(*nefer āa*),

The great god  
Der grosse Gott  
Le grand dieu



=(*nefer nefer*),

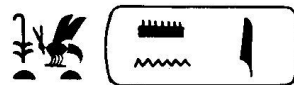
The good god  
Der gute Gott  
Le bon dieu



=(*renpet*),

Year  
Jahr  
Année

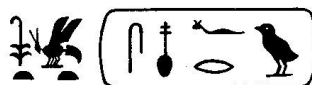
## Some Names of Famous Kings



Menâ (Menes).



Per-âb-sen.



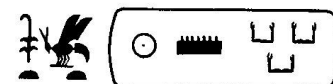
Seneferu.



Khufu (Cheops).



Khâ-f-Râ (Chephren).



Men-kau-Râ (Mycerinus).



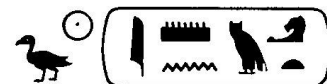
Sahu-Râ.



Unâs.



Maât-n-Râ, Âmen-m-hat III,



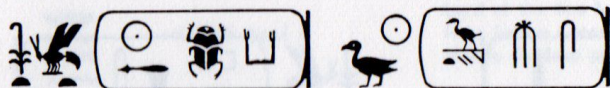
Neb-pehti-Râ, Âah-mes I (Amasis).







Djoser-ka-Rä, Ämen-hotep (Ameno-phs) I.



Äa kheper-ka-Rä, Thothmes I.



Äa-kheper-n-Rä, Thothmes II, Nefer-khäu.



Maät-ka-Rä, Hat-shepsut — chnem-Ämen (Hatshepsut).



Men-kheper-Rä, Thothmes III.



Äa-kheperu-Rä, Ämen-hotep II - nefer-heqa-Ännu.



Men-hheperu-Rä, Thothmes IV — khä-khäu.



Neb Maät Rä, Ämen hotep III-heqa Wast.



Nefer-kheperu-Rä-uä-n-Rä, Ämen-hotep-neter-heqa-Wast (Amenophis IV)



Akh-n-äten (Akhenaten)



Neb-kheperu-Rä, Tut-änkh-Ämen-heqa-Ännu-resu.



Djoser-kheperu-Rä-setep-n-Rä, Ämen-meri-Herun-m-heb.



Men pehti-Rä, Rä-messu (Rameses I).



User-Maät-setep-n-Rä, Rä-messu-meri-Ämen (Rameses II).



Ba-n-Rä-meri-Ämen, Ptah-meri-n-hotep-her-Maät (Menephtah).



User-Maät-Rä meri Ämen, Rä meses- heqa-Ännu (Rameses III).





Kheper-hedj-Rä-setep-n-Rä, Ämen-meri- Shashanq (Shishak I).



Sekhem-kheper-Rä-setep-n-Rä, Ämen-meri- Usärlen (Osorkon I).



Ämen-meri-Pänkhi, Pänkhi.



Rä-nefer-ätem-khu, Taherq (Tirhakah).



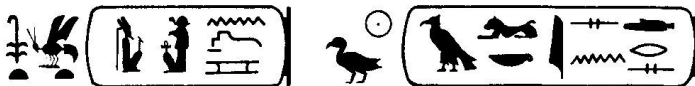
Uah äb Rä, Psemthek (Psammett-chus I).



Mesut Rä, Kambätet (Cambyses).



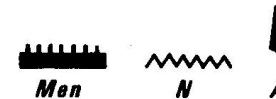
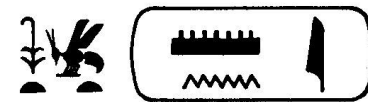
Setetu-Rä, Äntariusha (Darius Hystaspes).



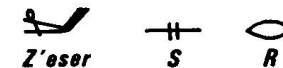
Setep-n-Rä-meri-Amen, Aleksändres (Alexander the Great).

## Decipher the names of the following Kings

MENA 1. Dyn. 3000 a.c.



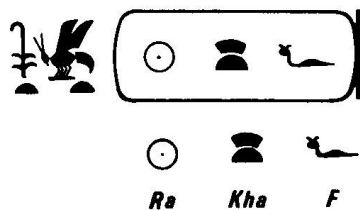
DZESER (Zoser) 3. Dyn. 2778-2723 a.c.



KHEOPS (Chufu) 4. Dyn. 2723-2563 a.c.



Kephren (Kafra) 4.Dyn.  
2723-2563 B.C.



Ra Kha F

MYKERINOS (Menkaura) 4.Dyn.  
2723-2563 B.C.



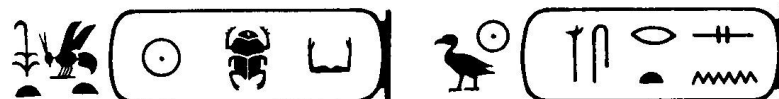
Ra Men Kau

UNAS 5.Dyn. 2563-2423 B.C.



U N A S

Senusert I (Usertsen Kheper-Ka-Ra) 12.Dyn. 1971-1928 B.C.



Ra Kheper Ka User S R T S N

Thotmes III (Tetmes Men Kheper Ra) 18.Dyn. 1505-1450 B.C.



Ra Men Kheper Thot Mes S

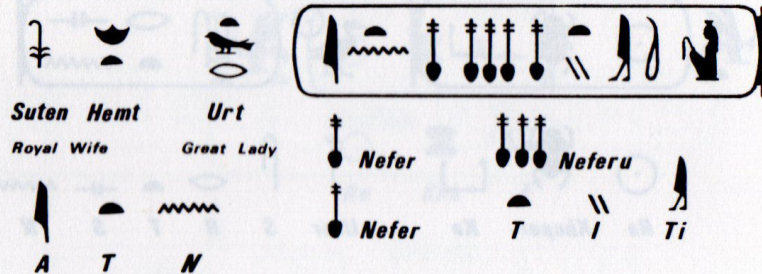
Amenophis II (Amenhotep Ah Kheperu Ra) 18.Dyn. 1450-1425 B.C.



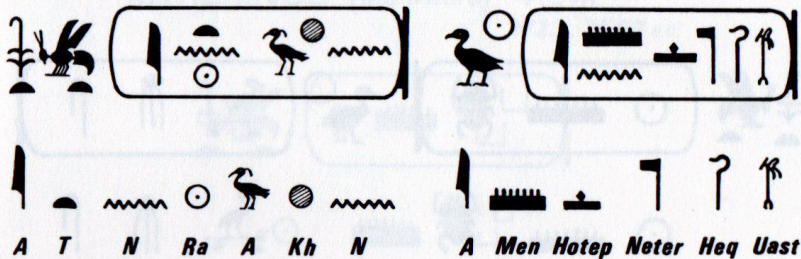
Ra Ah Kheper U A Men Hotep Neter Heq Annu



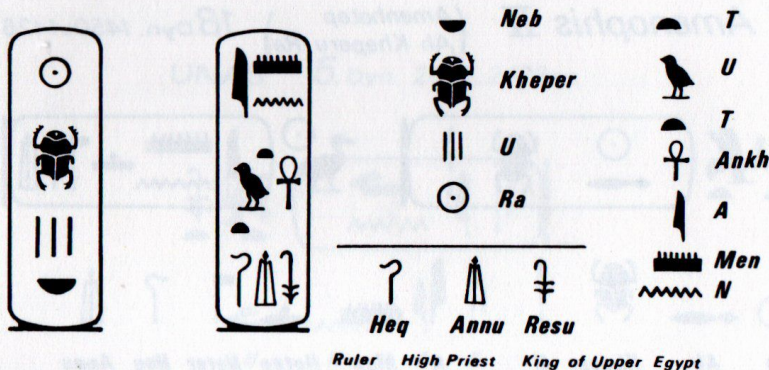
**Nefertiti** (Nefer Neferu - Aten) 18.Dyn. 1372 - 1354 B.C.



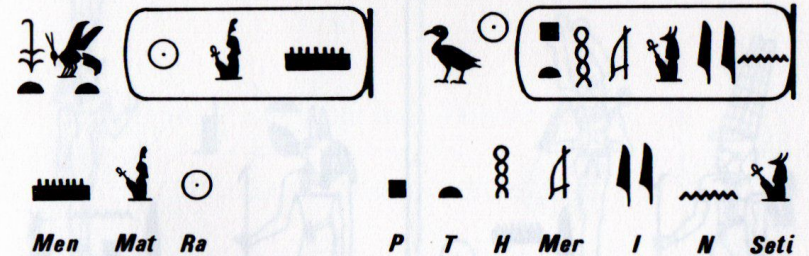
**Echnaton** (Ahenaten Ra Amen Hotep Neter Heq Uast) 18.Dyn. 1372 - 1354 B.C.



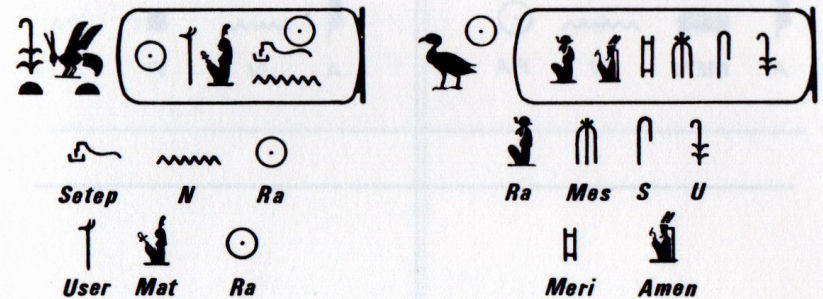
**Tut Ank Amen** 18.Dyn. 1354 - 1345 B.C. (Neb Kheperu Ra)



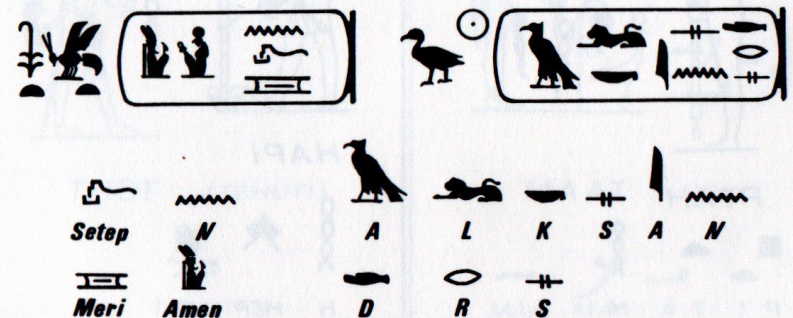
**Seti I** (Ptah - Meri - En - Seti) 19.Dyn. 1312 - 1298 B.C. Men - Mat - Ra



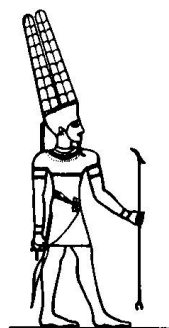
**Ramses II** (User - Mat - Ra Setep - en - Ra) 19.Dyn. 1298 - 1235 B.C. Ra - messu meri - Amen



**Alexander the Great** Ptol. 311 B.C. ALEKSANDRES (Setep - en - Ra - meri - Amen)



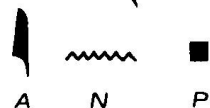
# Best known Egyptian Gods



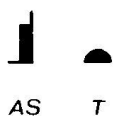
AMEN - RA



ANUBIS (ANPU)



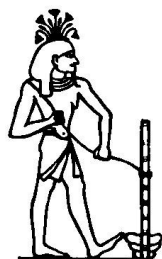
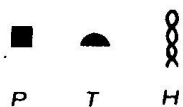
ISIS (ASET)



OSIRIS (ASAR)



PTAH



HAPI



THOT (TEHUTI)



MAAT



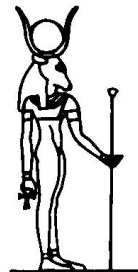




HORUS (HERU)



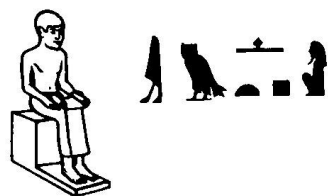
HERU



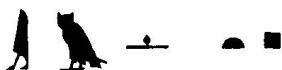
HATHOR



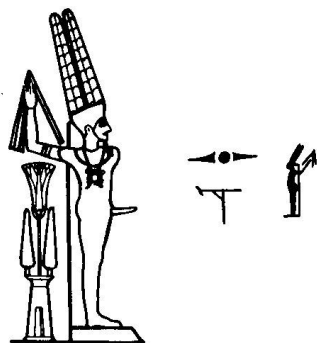
HET HERU



IMHOTEP



I EM HOTEP T P



MIN (AMSU)



AM SU

*Lehnert & Landrock Succ. Publish., Cairo*

*Sets of 12 colour transparencies of:*

Pyramids  
Cairo Mosques  
Memphis and Sakkara  
Luxor - Karnak - Thebes  
Sound & Light at Karnak  
Assuan & Philae  
Rock Temple of Abu Simbel  
Tombs of Kings at Thebes  
Tombs of the Nobles at Thebes

*Various books with colour plates from:*

Egyptian Museum Cairo  
Memphis and Sakkara  
The tombs of the Kings and Nobles at Thebes

Illustrated Nile Map from Alexandria to Abu Simbel

A set of playing cards showing 52 coloured views of Egypt

Very large collection of illustrated postcards of all Egypt.

English Edition

# How to read Hieroglyphes

Rosetta Stone

